
The Luton Islamic Centre follows the *salafi* tradition of Islam, below is a short statement from a *salafi* perspective regarding the massacre that took place in Tunisia.

Luton Islamic Centre condemns in the strongest terms the recent terrorist attacks in Tunisia. This senseless and depraved act has no basis in Islam and the perpetrators of this crime in no way represent Islam or the Muslims.

Islam considers all life forms as sacred. However, the sanctity of human life is accorded a special place. The first and the foremost basic right of a human being is the right to live. The Qur'an says about the one who kills an innocent person: **"....it would be as if he killed the whole of mankind: and if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole of mankind."** [Al-Qur'an 5:32] Such is the value of a single human life; the Qur'an equates the taking of even one human life unjustly, with killing all of humanity. Thus, the Qur'an prohibits murder in clear terms.

We call on all our communities, Muslim and non-Muslim, to come together in solidarity to ensure the forces of hatred do not prevail. Allah says in the Quran **"and co operate with one another in righteousness and piety but do not co operate in sin and enmity"**. (Al Quran 5:2). Those individuals who committed this senseless massacre are a common enemy to us all. We must use all possible avenues to bring an end to their oppression, and their perverted interpretation of our peaceful religion. The Quran states: **"Allah does not forbid you from those who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your homes - from being righteous toward them and acting justly toward them. Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly"** (Al Quran 60:8).

The tourists left their country of origin and travelled to Tunisia under an understanding that there is peace between the two countries. They travelled believing and knowing that they will be under the safety of the Tunisian authority. The Tunisian authority gave them a contract of safety when they issued them the visa to enter their country. Allah's Messenger (s) said to Umm Hani who gave a promise of safety to a non Muslim: **"Anyone you have given asylum to, is under the protection of all of us, O Umm Hani "**. (Bukhari)

He (s) also said: **"The obligation imposed by the covenant is communal, and the nearest Muslim must try hard to fulfill it. Anyone who violates the protection granted by a Muslim**

will be under the curse of God, the angels, and all people, and on Judgment Day no intercession will be accepted on his behalf." (Bukhari)

So ensuring the safety of these tourists was something that had to be respected by all Muslims, whether they agreed with them being there or not. This trust was betrayed. The murderer did not respect the offer of safety, he was treacherous to all the Tunisian Muslims by this act, and he opposed the very religion in whose name he committed this vile act.

Let us not forget the saying of Allah's Messenger (s) **"Whoever kills a person with whom we have a treaty, will not come close enough to Paradise to smell its scent, and its scent can be found as far away as forty years of travel."** (Bukhari)

The murderer of the innocent tourists as well as those who agreed with his criminal act, are in complete opposition to the teachings of Islam. Allah's Messenger (s) said: **"Whoever gives safety to a man then kills him then he will carry the banner of treachery on the Day of Judgment."** (Ahmed, Ibn Majah). And Allah's Messenger (s) said: **"A banner will be erected for the treacherous one on the Day of Judgment and it will be said; "this is the treachery of so and so"** (Bukhari and Muslim).

Luton Islamic Centre will continue its fight against violent extremism and will continue to also publically rebut those individuals and organisations who propagate this message. We call on the Muslim community, the mosques, and the preachers to clarify the correct teachings of Islam and to show zero tolerance to those who promote violent extremism.

Qadeer Baksh

On behalf of the Board of Trustees

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